

House Resolution 717

By: Representatives Beasley-Teague of the 65th, Taylor of the 55th, Greene of the 149th, Davis of the 122nd, Jones of the 44th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March, 2009, as Women's History Month at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, until the 1970's, women's history was a virtually unknown topic in schools and
4 in the general public consciousness; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1987, Congress declared March to serve as "Women's History Month" to
6 acknowledge the important role women have played in shaping America; and

7 WHEREAS, every year, during the month of March, hundreds of thousands of events are
8 held throughout the country to acknowledge and recognize the amazing accomplishments of
9 women, and the popularity of women's history celebration has sparked a new interest in
10 uncovering women's forgotten heritage; and

11 WHEREAS, in a recent survey of 18 history textbooks, only 10 percent of the people
12 identified were women, and although women constitute a majority of the nation's population,
13 their achievements and contributions are underrepresented in museums and memorials; and

14 WHEREAS, National Women's History Month provides an opportunity to educate the
15 general public about the significant role of women in American history and contemporary
16 society; and

17 WHEREAS, knowledge of women's history is essential to encourage and inspire girls and
18 women to think larger and bolder and provides all individuals with an expansive idea of what
19 women can accomplish; and

20 WHEREAS, women have voted at higher rates than men in every presidential election since
21 1980, and the number of women voters has exceeded the number of men voting in every
22 presidential election since 1964; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2004, women outvoted men in every racial and ethnic group and among
24 voters under the age of 65; and

25 WHEREAS, with passion and courage, women have taught us that when we band together
26 to advocate for our highest ideals, we can advance our common well-being and strengthen
27 the fabric of our nation; and

28 WHEREAS, great women leaders of the past, such as Ellen Swallow Richards, the first
29 American woman to be accepted at a scientific school, and Maria Sanford, who led efforts
30 to protect forest land near the Mississippi River which eventually became the first national
31 forest, have inspired generations of women through their achievements; and

32 WHEREAS, women visionaries have challenged the status quo and broke social barriers,
33 such as Rachel Carson, who exposed the dangers of pesticides to humans and the
34 environment, and Grace Thorpe, who organized Native Americans to oppose the storage of
35 nuclear waste on their reservations; and

36 WHEREAS, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women
37 (NOBEL/Women) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization composed of black women who
38 are current and former elected officials who inspire women to take an active role in public
39 policy issues and serve as a catalyst for reform; and

40 WHEREAS, on March 11, 2009, NOBEL/Women honored three dynamic and influential
41 trailblazers who have made great advances on behalf of women, Mrs. Marie Barnes,
42 Representative Carolyn Fleming Hugley, and Representative Pam Stephenson; and

43 WHEREAS, under the guidance of the National Women's History Project, educators,
44 workplace program planners, parents and community organizations in thousands of
45 American communities have turned National Women's History Month into a major focal
46 celebration, and a springboard for celebrating women's history all year round.

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
48 the members of this body recognize March, 2009, as Women's History Month at the state
49 capitol.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
51 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to members of the public and
52 the press.